

**ABSTRACT**  
**“HYBRID PHASE-SHIFT MASK”**

A method of forming a hybrid mask for optically transferring a lithographic pattern corresponding to an integrated circuit from the mask onto a semiconductor substrate by use of an optical exposure tool. The method includes the steps of forming at least one non-critical feature on the mask utilizing one of a low-transmission phase-shift mask (pattern) and a  
5 non-phase shifting mask (pattern), and forming at least one critical feature on the mask utilizing a high-transmission phase-shift mask (pattern).